

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday September 25th, 2023 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Bruce Mattison
Andrew McKeever
Dixie Zens
Alex Bresnick
Marty Nadler

Others in Attendance:

Mia Smith- Secretary
Rob Zeif- Planning Commission Chair

Meeting:

1. Call to Order by Dixie Zens, Chair, at 7:00 PM.
2. Introduction of Board Members: Marty Nadler, Alex Bresnick, Andrew McKeever, Bruce Mattison. Secretary Mia Smith and Planning Commission Chair Rob Zeif .
3. Approval of the minutes of August 28th, 2023 Selectboard Meeting.

Mover: Andrew McKeever
2nd: Alex Bresnick
Result: Passed

4. Planning Board Updates by Rob Zeif

Town/Village Sign

- Rob Zeif reports on initial estimates for a village sign ("Welcome to Sunderland"), and contacted the state about requirements (construction, maintenance, approval) because of the location on 7A.
- State requires town (either resident or highway department) to install and maintain, within setback limits, etc.
- Need to decide on size and material for accurate quote. There was initial discussion in Planning Committee on installation of two signs, at northern and southern bounds of town.
- Debate between Select members and Rob Zeif about how to choose design of the sign (committee, residents, school). Could include name of town, image of bridge, or image of randall cows, in some combination.

- Andrew McKeever asks about projected cost and if there is a budget, Rob Zeif estimates \$1-2k, not including installation. Funds must be raised or potentially come out of ARPA funds.

Village Center Designation

- Rob Zeif reviews the process so far, including Selectboard signing resolution to apply for Village Center Designation on 2/13/22. A warning went out to surrounding municipalities and public for comment. Following Select Board discussion and public comment period, the town master plan was edited by Planning Committee regarding the area within potential village center designation (to include Hill Farm Rd up to the cemetery and church).
- Once Seletboard accepts the master plan, the Planning Committee brings it to BCRC.

Ducks Unlimited Project

- Public notice sent to Selectboard and abutters 7/18/23.
- Ducts Unlimited “to obtain” two parcels in town.
- Ducks Unlimited/Army COE trying to increase wetland to absorb more water from Hudson River watershed
- Rob Zeif (*speaking as public citizen/abutter*)- shares concerns about increased wetland area.
- Alex Bresnick explains the scope and goals based on reading Ducks/Army COE proposal.. Breaks down acreage of each part of project, and shows pictures of historic wetland areas and flooding impacts.
- Andrew McKeever recommends having Army COE or Ducks Unlimited rep to come explain project.
- Comment period past.

5. Public Comment

6. ARPA Funds

- Green Mountain would like 50% deposit for the tech upgrade for \$9,626.70.
- Alex Bresnick reviews new proposal and compares original vs new line items.
- Marty Nadler moves to pay 50% deposit.

Mover: Marty Nadler

2nd: Bruce Mattison

Result: Passed

- Alex Bresnik suggests creating ARPA committee to brainstorm ideas, how much things cost, bring back to board for debate.

- Bruce Mattison proposes money be used for something that would benefit the whole town. Proposes a pole barn for road equipment, a town garage that is more efficient, potentially next to town offices.
- Approximately \$260k remaining. Must be spent by 12/2026. Earmarked with proposal by end of 2024.
- Dixie Zens proposes that Alex Bresnik begins a committee for ARPA money.

Mover: Andrew McKeever
 2nd: Marty Nadler
 Result: Passed

7. Road Liaison Report

- Currently working on ditch work and culvert replacement, mowing ongoing.
- Truck still broke down, waiting for a bracket.
- Marty Nadler says the road crew did outstanding work near his home! *Thank you road crew!*

8. BCRC, SWIP, Energy Committee updates

- **BCRC mtg**- Andrew McKeever reports on listening session where regional commissions try to get ideas and suggestions on incorporating renewable energy sources.
- 82% of the state's electricity comes from renewable sources currently (hydro, wind, solar).
- Regional commissions send feedback to public service commission and then onto state legislature for recommendations on how to obtain 100% renewable electricity within the state.
- **Solid Waste**- please separate recycle and compost from trash (see [Act 148](#), Universal Recycling and Food Scrap ban or VTrecycles.com for resources)
- **Energy Committee**- starting friday 9/29 until following wednesday 10/4, 170 inserts being built.
- Jeff Dexter coming to Select Meeting on 10/9 to explain green procurement. This resolution is a commitment to choosing products that are purchased/used to be "green", signed by many VT towns.

9. CUD Update

- Pace of wiring/connections are meeting the state progress expectations.
- Onto phase three; wiring to hard to reach homes in town.

10. Old Business-

- Assign Selectboard members to Insurance Liaison and Law Enforcement Liaison
- Alex Bresnick explains shared insurance between towns, following risk assessment procedures. Moves to elect Bruce Mattison for Insurance Liaison.

Mover: Alex Bresnik
2nd: Andrew McKeever
Result: Passed

- Law enforcement contract with Bennington CO Sheriff's Dept, liaison acts as in between, asking for specific times or places for patrols (e.g. speed monitoring in problem areas/times of day)
- Bruce Mattison moves to make Marty Nadler Law Enforcement Liaison,

Mover: Bruce Mattison
2nd: Alex Bresnik
Result: Passed

- Marty Nadler contacted Matt Vanderberg (emergency manager), following up with other manager to find out if they are still fulfilling their role.
- Creating a policy for money requested by residents for trainings. Bruce Mattison recommends that training funds should be used for road crew, clerks, selectboard, etc. Marty Nadler made a draft ("Funding of Citizen Requests") to be reviewed at the next meeting.

11. New Business-

- Proposal for changes to cell tower on North Road. T-Mobile wants to add an antenna to the tower.
- Motion to send to planning commission to review and evaccept it.

Mover: Dixie Zens
2nd: Andrew McKeever
Result: Passed

12. Review of Correspondence/Signing of Warrants-

13. At our next Meeting on Oct 9th, Laura Stone from the Vermont Department of Transportation will give a presentation on the proposed Bridge work for Rte. 7 south of the Rte. 313 Exit/Entrance Ramps.

14. Next Meeting October 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

15. Adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Mover: Andrew McKeever
2nd: Alex Bresnik and Bruce Mattison
Result: Passed